Church of the Brethren General Board

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Church of the Brethren

December 11, 2000

Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
Docket No. OOP-1211CP1
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Commissioner Henney,

As a person who works daily with environmental and food issues in many different global contexts, I am concerned about the growing acceptance of genetically altered foods. It is not clear to me what the long-term health effects of GE foods may be, both to the human consumer and to the ecosystem. I am wary of food production becoming too closely linked to the chemical and petroleum industries, as both these have a record of dismissing health threats in the interest of production. I am also worried that as foods become more "specialized" and seeds more in control of a small number of multinationals, the very people who are most in need of food today–the world's poorest 2 billion people–will be even more unable to acquire the foodstuffs they need, as they will have been priced out of the market by techno-foods.

I urge you to keep GE food ingredients or crops off the market and out of the food supply unless 1) there are independently monitored safeguards, protecting both human consumers and the environment; 2) genetically engineered crops are clearly labeled as such; 3) corporations that manufacture these crops are held liable for any harm.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Best wishes for a pleasant holiday season.

Sincerely,

David R. Radcliff
Director, Brethren Witness
Manager, Global Food Crisis Fund

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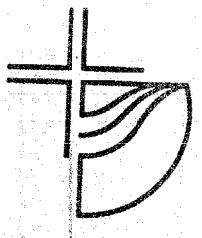

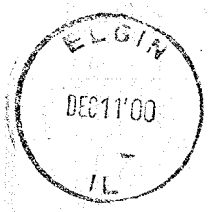

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